

Dr.H.S.Ballal, prochancellor of Manipal University, Dr.K.Ramanrayn, Vice-chancellor, Dr.P.lashminarayan Rao, Dr. Rajashekar Warriar, Dr.H.Sudharshan Ballal, Dr.Pradeepkumar Dean of the college, Dr.P.Sampath and Dr.Sudhaker Nayak, my dear students and Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me at the outset thank our dean Dr.Pradeep kumar and the organizers of this function for giving me this opportunity to associate myself with the ~~valedictory of the~~ Diamond jubilee celebrations of this great institution. Most of the audience here cannot even imagine the conditions that obtained when this institution was started way back in July 1953. I joined this institution on December 6th 1954.

Probably you will get an idea of the conditions then if I describe to you my journey to this place to join this institution. I with my family consisting of my wife and daughter one year old arrived by Madras(Chennai) Mangalore Mail at about 6-30 p.m. In those days the trains were hauled by steam engines discovered by James Watt. Steam engines give out a lot of soot and you are covered with soot whether you travel by 1 class or 3rd class! We were received and put in a bus. The bus took nearly 3 hours to reach Udupi via Moodubadri, Karkala, Hiriadca, Manipal and finally Udupi. We were asked not to get down at Manipal because there were no hotels at Manipal.

There was no highway at that time because there were no bridges over the west flowing rivers at Udyavar, Mulki and Kuloor.

We were housed in a house at Udupi. Early in the morning, I walked a middle aged person with a walking stick and greeted me saying "I am Dr.Pai. Yesterday I couldn't receive you as we were busy with MCI inspection." After enquiring how the journey was he said a car would pick me up at 10 o'clock. I reported for duty on 6th of

December 1954. Only the Anatomy block front half was occupied . The physiology block only ground floor was occupied and the other floors were still under construction. Except for the Heritage building, residences of Dr.Pai and his brother none of the other buildings were there.. It was a typical village without any amenities, no cell phone, only land lines and to talk to your dear ones in an emergency you have to book a call and wait for hours /eternity. Under those conditions Dr.Pai started this institution in Manipal See the facilities you have now. Ask for anything, you can get it in Manipal. This institution has shown what urbanization of the villages means. Dr.Pai believed that urbanization of the villages is the answer for getting rid of poverty in India, not migration of village folk to urban areas and creating slums. You have only to walk a few miles round Manipal to see the richness brought about by this institution. The starting of this medical college is arguably the first institution on the P_P model-Private and public (Government) cooperating in building institutions. In this experience we had our ups and downs since a number of people are involved from both sides. If both sides shed their egos and think only of the growth of the institution things can be worked out. Shedding the egos is very, very difficult.

On this Occasion I must gratefully acknowledge the great role played by the staff and students of this institution. A number of names come to my mind: Dr .Mangeshwar rao the first dean of this college and the first professor of anatomy who brought to bear his life-time of surgical experience to the teaching of anatomy; DR. Koppiker who could make a lifeless subject like Anatomy come to life; Dr.Guruswamy, Prof of Pharmacology, who can call any student by his name from the second day onwards, Dr P.N.Srinivasarao ,Professor of ophthalmology who took ophthalmology to the villages

by conducting camps ,Dr.Padmarao who pioneered the use of Laparoscopy for sterilization and made Maternity services available in villages round about, Dr Chacko who developed orthopedics department and encouraged the development of subspecialisation; Prof.Warrior, professor of surgery at Manipal, joined us after retirement as professor in Kerala Medical service. He was an active member of the communist party throughout his life. He showed us what comradeship means in actual practice; heading the department but still building comradeship amongst the members of the department without hierarchy. At Mangalore Dr.Ramanamurthi who set the disciplinary tone ; Dr.Veliath who set the trend of treating students as friends; Dr.MV Chari , Dr.Ganesan professors of medicine , Dr.M.P.Pai, Dr.C.R.Ballal and Dr.Srinivasan of surgery department; and so many others . Those are the greats who have shaped the Teaching-Learning environment. Look at the Museums in the different departments. I must pay my tribute to Dr.S.S.Godbole of Anatomy department who was interested in dissecting and coloring the specimens to just look like any textbook picture. Prof Last, an internationally acclaimed professor of Anatomy and author of a textbook of anatomy said after going round the museum “I have not seen one like this any where else in the world. One of the Best.” This challenged the other departments to develop their museums. What fine museums you have in Pathology, Community medicine, Forensic Medicine and Pharmacology. The museums were attracting so many people that the students were finding it difficult to use the museums. So MAP specially meant for visitors was separated so that our students can use the museums without disturbance. MAP continues to attract so many visitors every day.

I must pay my tribute to the students as well. They have acquitted themselves so well after passing out. The early batches of students did wonderfully well because they joined this institution after waiting for a number of years. Many have settled in some other profession when they did not get admission anywhere in the then 33 medical colleges. When this college admitted them they did put in lot of effort. Once in a conversation with Dr.Pai, I said "Sir, you must take your visitors at 9 P.M. to the Library, to see the students there". Dr.Pai said "Who will be there at that time? I said "You just take and see for yourself". Then in the night he took the visitors round. Next day when he saw me he said "Doctor, What a sight it was. Any one will be impressed by that sight. All students studying. All seats occupied." Many a time the seats available were not enough. The seats were unofficially reserved!

In those days the library was kept open till 1a.m. Today the library has moved into its new building. We can all be proud of such a library. The students who passed out distinguished themselves in later life. They had a reputation for hard work. Many an employer would prefer to employ a KMCite! Dr.Ramdas M.Pai the chancellor of this university is an alumnus of this college. Dr.Warrior, who is with us is an old student of this college; he was the V.C. of this university prior to the present V.C.. After a stint here he continues to work as a teacher of pediatrics in America! Dr.Sudharshan Ballal a renowned Nephrologist of India is an alumnus of this college. So many graduates of this institution have distinguished themselves To name just a few: Dr.K.M.Churian and Dr.Devi Shetty internationally recognized cardiac surgeons; Dr.Ramani, famous Ophthalmologist of Coimbatore; Dr.Pratap Kumar who got the Life time achievement award in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and many, many more. I see

in front of me a group of alumni who will be recognized for distinguishing themselves in different fields. I congratulate them.

The effort put in by management, staff and students was responsible for the recognition of the degree offered by this institution from the very first batch which passed out in 1957. In 1965 GMC of Great Britain recognized this degree. That opened the admission for national and international students. I must pay my tribute to the dedicated work of staff, students and management for the rank this institution holds in India-- amongst the top 10 in India and also for getting the Deemed University status in 1994. After that the expansion has been very, very rapid, and mindboggling and I have not kept pace with that. The Vision of the University is to be amongst the top ten in the world. Till now the Kasturba Medical Colleges have embraced the Scholarship of Teaching. To be amongst the top ten in the world we must embrace the other Scholarships in addition: Scholarship of research or discovery; Scholarship of application and Scholarship of integration. To achieve that vision, this institution must adopt the motto of the university: Inspired by Life and combine it with the motto of this institution: Live to serve. *May you achieve your goal by the time you celebrate your Platinum Jubilee* Towards that end, I wish you all Good luck and Godspeed.

Thank you.